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Cowpens National Battlefield News Release

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Youth Conservation Corp Service Project at Great Smoky Mountains National Park



Gaffney, SC – On Tuesday July 17th 2012, six local youth and two adults working with the Youth Conservation Corp program at Cowpens National Battlefield took a 4-day “spike trip” to Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Spike trips are service-related work camps dedicated to the maintenance and improvement of your National Parks.

Tim Warner, the Southern District (NC) Trails Maintenance Supervisor, assigned the group to rehabilitate trails in the Deep Creek District in the NC section of the park. The work day started after driving 45 minutes to the Deep Creek trailhead, then hauling all equipment, food, and water two miles to the worksite. The group spent the next six hours working with the Southern District (NC) Trail Maintenance Crew, to clear and enhance area hiking and horse trails.

The youth spent their free time learning about the park and area history. Randy Fowler, one of the park staff members accompanying the YCC noted, “This was a great opportunity to educate these young people about national parks and their history. The YCC program carries on the legacy

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of the Civilian Conservation Corps, who originally built these trails in the 1930s.” The YCC spent the final evening of their trip watching the outdoor play “Unto These Hills”. The play dramatizes the history of the Cherokee Nation including the Trail of Tears, the forced removal from their homelands by the US Government when gold was discovered in the area.

The Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) is a non-residential, summer work youth program on federally managed lands. The YCC has introduced young Americans to conservation opportunities on public lands since the program was created in 1970. Youth Conservation Corps program at Cowpens National Battlefield is conducted for 8 weeks each summer. Participants must be between 15–18 years old at the start of the program.